

glaucoma and of orbital decompression in exophthalmic ophthalmoplegia. Penicillin ointment advised for blepharitis carries the risk of sensitization to a valuable antibiotic. The treatment of nasolacrimal duct obstruction is archaic, in that excision of the lacrimal sac is recommended 'as the only certain cure'. It is stated that following dacrocystorhinostomy 'a permanently successful result is rarely seen in more than one-third of the cases'. While this may once have been true, nearly all modern series report 80–90% of satisfactory results. The section on concomitant strabismus might be misleading for the inexperienced reader; for example, while orthoptists do valuable diagnostic work, the role of orthoptic treatment is exaggerated, as most children being treated for this condition are much too young to co-operate.

Despite these criticisms this is a most successful synopsis of the subject, written, as Mr Stallard says in the foreword, with 'art, judgement and seasoned experience'.

Cysticercosis:

An Analysis and Follow-up of 450 Cases

by H B F DIXON MC MD FRCP and

F M LIPSCOMB OBE FRCP

Medical Research Council Special Report
Series No. 299

pp vi+58 illustrated 6s 6d

London: *Her Majesty's Stationery Office* 1961

Nearly thirty years have now elapsed since MacArthur first drew attention to the occurrence of cysticercosis in British troops who had served in India and it is therefore timely to have this record of all British cases up to the end of 1956.

In this report the natural history of the disease in these patients and its diagnosis, prognosis, complications and treatment are presented clearly and concisely, together with a full list of case reports of the present series.

Although cysticercosis is now rarely encountered, this summary will remind doctors of its importance as a cause of epilepsy.

Anesthesia and the Law

by Carl Erwin Wasmuth MD LLB

American Lecture Series No. 448

pp xiv+105 illustrated 40s

Springfield, Ill.: *Charles C Thomas*

Oxford: *Blackwell Scientific Publications* 1961

The author of this new monograph is not only a distinguished clinical anaesthetist, but is also a member of the Ohio bar and a teacher of forensic medicine. This double qualification makes him exceptionally well equipped for his purpose of introducing basic legal concepts to anaesthetists, so that they may avoid the legal pitfalls of clinical practice.

He has succeeded admirably and offers much good clinical advice while lucidly explaining the complexities of responsibility, negligence and the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur*, to mention but three chapter titles.

English law is not always the same as its American counterpart, which, as the author points out, may vary from state to state; nevertheless many of the more important principles are common to both countries. Although this clearly written book with its instructive case histories will be of greatest value to the American audience for which it is primarily intended, it will also be of interest to medical men in this country, and must be read by any anaesthetist about to practise in the U.S.A.

The volume is produced to the high standards we have come to expect of the American Lecture Series, and contains a good index as well as numerous legal references.

Synovial Joints: Their Structure and Mechanics

by C H Barnett MA MB FRCS, D V Davies MA BS and

M A MacConaill MB DSC MRIA

pp xi+304 illustrated 50s

London: *Longmans* 1961

This is an admirable book in every way, easy to read, reasonably concise and well illustrated. It brings together all the facts at present known about the anatomical, physiological and mechanical aspects of joints and structures pertaining to them and will make essential reading for anatomists and orthopaedic surgeons for some years to come. The accent throughout is on function, and where physics and mechanics are involved they are dealt with in simple terms and the text illuminated with suitable diagrams which make them comprehensible to those without specialized knowledge of these subjects. The section on the lubrication of joints will cause most controversy; Professor MacConaill's support for the theory of fluid film lubrication in animal joints is already well known, but there are other theories which merit serious consideration which are dealt with rather superficially in this chapter. The truth of this matter is still to be sought, and will no doubt provide fascinating discussion in the next edition.

Vertebrate Biochemistry in Preparation for Medicine

by M W Neil PhD FRIC

pp xii+360 illustrated 40s

London: *Pitman* 1961

This commendably concise textbook of biochemistry is intended primarily for pre-clinical students. It contains a number of novel features in the presentation of the subject which should go far to capture and to retain the interest of the already over-burdened medical student. The first